

Cattle and Calves

Arizona's inventory of cattle and calves on January 1, 2003 was estimated at 820,000 head, down 20,000 head from the previous year. The 2002 calf crop of 265,000 was down 5,000 head from 2001. The value of cattle and calves on January 1 was \$623 million, down 4 percent.

Monthly beef cattle prices varied by \$8.90 per hundredweight during 2002, from a low of \$64.50 in January to a high of \$73.40 in December. The marketing year average price for beef cattle decreased \$2.80 per hundredweight from a year ago to \$69.10. The annual average steer and heifer price decreased \$2.80 to \$69.40 per hundredweight and the annual average calf price decreased \$2.70 to \$98.30 per hundredweight. The annual average price for cows decreased \$5.40 per hundredweight to \$35.20.

Cattle and calf marketings were down 5 percent to 885 million pounds and the gross income from these marketings decreased 8 percent to \$628 million.

Arizona's feedlot operators marketed 341,000 head during 2002. Feedlot inventories ranged from 285,000 head on August and September 1 to 314,000 head on April 1.

Arizona's 16 livestock slaughtering establishments produced 449 million pounds of red meat during 2002, up 8 percent from the 2001 slaughter. Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 576,800 head, up 3 percent from 2001.

**Cattle Inventory
January 1, 1983-2003**

